

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
MFA FINAL VISUAL PRESENTATION

by

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A THESIS

SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH
IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF FINE ARTS

IN

PAINTING - MIXED MEDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ART AND DESIGN

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

FALL 1995



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THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH

The undersigned certify that they have read, and recommend to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, for acceptance, a thesis entitled:

Final Visual Presentation

submitted by FIONA DOROTHY ANNE PORTWOOD in
partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Fine Art.

The University of Alberta

RELEASE FORM

NAME OF AUTHOR FIONA DOROTHY ANNE PORTWOOD TITLE
OF THESIS FINAL VISUAL PRESENTATION DEGREE
FOR WHICH THESIS WAS GRANTED MASTER OF FINE ARTS
YEAR THIS DEGREE WAS GRANTED 1995

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DEPARTMENT OF ART AND DESIGN

GRADUATE STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

I hereby release the following works for incorporation into the University Collections,
University of Alberta, as part of the Master of Fine Arts Thesis Collection:

TITLE	DATE	MEDIUM	SIZE
Untitled	1995	Mixed	48" x 30"

This work has been created with the ideas of metaphor, space, surface and as a means by which the viewers can access emotions and meanings pertaining to their own histories, myths, and private experiences. It is not my intention to control the reception of my works.

The work is reminiscent of aboriginal rock art, cave art, artifacts, fetishes, and natural organic forms. I intend specific interpretations to be tenuous. However, I hope that the works evoke an assimilation or synthesis with universal, primordial cultures. The possibilities for these connections are ever-evolving because of the diverse cultural backgrounds and societal influences each person brings to the understanding of the work. The meanings of the pieces are therefore enhanced and expanded by new interpretations.

Instead of painting representations of things, I construct and organize objects for the effects they ultimately can produce. I want the image/object to awaken emotions and develop associations for the spectators, allowing them to make their own connections.

These are the questions I hope to pose with the works:

- * Is it possible to create our own mythology/belief systems?

- * Can these systems be presented and engaged in as a way of celebrating and contemplating past, present, and future cultural occurrences?

My working approach is intuitive and spontaneous, demonstrating a ritualistic manner of art making. Many symbols, objects, images, and materials are repeated and fused to establish interaction between the viewer and the works, and among the individual works. This idea of ritual extends and necessitates process and participation.

I rely on sensations of materials and intuitions about relationships of objects rather than on objective knowledge to be the primary means by which the work is accessed and unraveled. The act of relating form-sensations and emotive qualities establishes different meanings for individual viewers. This body of work attempts to initiate a spiritual interaction with the viewer.

Although the work is imbued with my aesthetics and mythology, I feel confident that each viewer can make connections to complete and energize its cycle. This exhibition offers a vehicle by which one may establish and develop one's own mythology/belief system.

Fiona Portwood
May 1995

MAKING CONNECTIONS:

Fiona Portwood

Slide List:

No.	Description	Medium	Size
1	Installation view	mixed	site specific
2	Installation view	mixed	site specific
3	Installation view	mixed	site specific
4	Wall sculptures	mixed	site specific
5	Wall sculptures	mixed	site specific
6	Painting installation	mixed	site specific
7	Detail-painting #6	mixed	
8	Detail #7	mixed	96" x 37"
9	Altar Piece	mixed	84" x 56"
10	Installation view	mixed	site specific
11	Installation view	mixed	site specific
12	Painting(body)	mixed	72" x 18"
13	Detail #10(table)	mixed	37" x 18"
14	Detail #10(table)	mixed	37" x 18"
15	Detail #10(table)	mixed	37" x 18"
16	Painting(boy)	mixed	72" x 40" o/a
17	Museum Piece	mixed	73" x 73" o/a
18	Detail #17	mixed	
19	Installation Panels	mixed	72" x 36" ea.
20	Detail #19(rocks)	mixed	various

Mixed media includes: beeswax, paraffin wax, oils and acrylics, wood, string, wire, fabrics, steel, plexi-glass, found objects/wood, paper mache, canvas and plaster.



